

## ABSTRACT

Methods and apparatus are disclosed for redirecting requests received over a  
5 connection and redirecting them to multiple servers. The responses are then merged and  
sent over the connection. In this manner, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and other  
transport layer connections can be redirected to different servers on a per-request basis  
while still allowing client requests to be pipelined. In one implementation, a splicer  
device or process of a switch is used to map the requests to the appropriate servers and  
10 responses back over the appropriate connection. A set of connections may be pre-  
established between the switch and the servers. The splicer device or process maintains a  
data structure indicating the usage of these connections. The splicer device or process  
may maintain counts and/or receives indications from a server when a response has been  
completed, to identify when a connection may be used for servicing another request  
15 and/or connection.